

the stretcher. Once the hand-cuffed and leg-ironed prisoner had been shot, a bailiff removed the leg irons. Xing Tongyi and I had 15 seconds to bring the executee to the waiting ambulance. Inside the ambulance, the best urologist surgeons removed both kidneys, and rushed back to the waiting recipient at the hospital. Meanwhile, our burn surgery department waited for the execution of the following three prisoners, and followed their corpses to the crematorium where we removed skin in a small room next.

Although I performed this procedure nearly a hundred times in the following years, it was an incident in October 1995 that has tortured my conscience to no end. We were sent to Hebei Province to extract kidneys and skin. We arrived one day before the execution of a man sentenced to death for robbery and the murder of a would-be witness. Before execution, I administered a shot of heparin to prevent blood clotting to the prisoner. A nearby policeman told him it was a tranquilizer to prevent unnecessary suffering during the execution. The criminal responded by giving thanks to the government.

At the site, the execution commander gave the order, "Go!" and the prisoner was shot to the ground. Either because the executioner was nervous, aimed poorly, or intentionally misfired to keep the organs intact, the prisoner had not yet died, but instead lay convulsing on the ground. We were ordered to take him to the ambulance anyway where urologists Wang Zhifu, Zhao Qingling and Liu Qiyu extracted his kidneys quickly and precisely. When they finished, the prisoner was still breathing and his heart continued to beat. The execution commander asked if they might fire a second shot to finish him off, to which the county court staff replied, "Save that shot. With both kidneys out, there is no way he can survive." The urologists rushed back to the hospital with the kidneys, the county staff and executioner left the scene, and eventually the paramilitary policemen disappeared as well. We burn surgeons remained inside the ambulance to harvest the skin. We could hear people outside the ambulance, and fearing it was the victim's family who might force their way inside, we left our job half-done, and the half-dead corpse was thrown in a plastic bag onto the flatbed of the crematorium truck. As we left in the ambulance, we were pelted by stones from behind.

After this incident, I have had horrible, recurring nightmares. I have participated in a practice that serves the regime's political and economic goals far more than it benefits the patients. I have worked at execution sites over a dozen times, and have taken the skin from over one hundred prisoners in crematoriums. Whatever impact I have made in the lives of burn victims and transplant patients does not excuse the unethical and immoral manner of extracting organs.

I resolved to no longer participate in the organ business, and my wife supported my decision. I submitted a written report requesting reassignment to another job. This request was flatly denied on the grounds that no other job matched my skills. I began to refuse to take part in outings to execution sites and crematoriums, to which the hospital responded by blaming and criticizing me for my refusals. I was forced to submit a pledge that I would never expose their practices of procuring organs and the process by which the organs and skin were preserved and sold for huge profits. They threatened me with severe consequences, and began to train my replacement. Until the day I left China in the spring of 2000, they were still harvesting organs from execution sites.

I hereby expose all these terrible things to the light in the hope that this will help to put an end to this evil practice.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT HOPE HOUSING COMPANY, INC.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. (MHHC) as they celebrate their 15th anniversary today.

The Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. was formed in 1986 as a part of intense organizing efforts of residents and community groups in the Mount Hope neighborhood in the South Bronx. Focusing first on the pressing need for the availability of affordable housing, Mount Hope completed one of the first housing tax credit projects in the United States in 1986 and to date has rehabilitated over 1,400 housing units. As a result of this intense and comprehensive effort, one in six residents of the Mount Hope neighborhood lives in a building operated by the MHHC.

Since its founding, the MHHC has continued to enhance its abilities and expand its services to the community. In 1994, the MHHC opened a thrift shop. One year later, the Mount Hope Primary Care Center opened. And in 1996, the New Bronx Employment Service was inaugurated, followed by the Neighborhood Housing Service/MHHC Home Maintenance Training Center in 1998. And now MHHC is planning to develop a community center that will house programs for area youth like a Boys and Girls Club, affordable child care and a state of the art center for computer training.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. is another fine example of a community organization dedicated to empowering Bronx residents and revitalizing the community, using a comprehensive, self-sustaining and long-term approach. Its success reminds all of us of the contributions local organizations have made to improving the lives of citizens in their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc. and in wishing them continued success.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOFFMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that the testimony given by David Hoffman, President of Internews in Arcata, CA, be submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Hoffman's valuable testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations is as follows:

TESTIMONY TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS BY DAVID HOFFMAN, PRESIDENT, INTERNEWS

Electronic media are the most powerful force for social change in the world today. As Americans, we live and breathe in the information age. Media are central to our economy, our culture, our political system and our everyday lives.

But in many countries around the world, free media can by no means be taken for granted. In Russia, President Putin has prosecuted Victor Gusinsky, whose influential television network has been critical of the government. In Ukraine, Prime Minister Kuchma has been accused of ordering the murder of a dissident journalist. In China, the government selectively censors Internet web sites that challenge the official version of events. In Iran, dozens of newspapers have been banned and their editors thrown in jail. In Zimbabwe, journalists have been beaten and jailed. In Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, independent television stations have been suppressed.

And of course, former President Milosevic used state media as a propaganda weapon to foment hatred and violence in the Balkans. But with US government funds, Internews and other NGOs were able to provide critical support to independent broadcasters in Serbia that formed the nucleus of opposition to the Milosevic regime. In Serbia and many countries around the world, independent media have been on the front lines in the fight for freedom and democracy.

With significant funding from USAID, Internews helped develop 1500 independent, non-governmental broadcasters in 23 countries. During the past ten years, we have also trained 16,000 media professionals.

IMPORTANCE OF OPEN MEDIA

In all these countries we have learned that open media are essential for holding free and fair elections, for exposing corruption and human rights abuses, for allowing the free exchange of ideas. American support of uncensored news outlets, therefore, should be at the top of our foreign policy agenda.

America's goal should be the development of a global "electronic commons" where everyone can participate in the global marketplace of goods and ideas, where everyone has access to multiple sources of information, where government regulation of the media is kept to a minimum, where the poor, minorities, women and every group that has been disenfranchised in the past will have a voice.

INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

This Committee and this Congress can be proud of their support for open media in the former Soviet Union, in the Balkans and most recently in Indonesia. But there are large areas of the world where open media have yet to take hold. In Africa, in particular, independent media are just in their infancy. We encourage the Committee to continue and expand its support of open media in developing countries.

We would like to share the key lessons that Internews has learned in our nearly twenty years of experience in the field of international media, and make one recommendation for the Committee to consider this year.

First, local indigenous media are the best counterweight to repressive regimes everywhere. They should be supported as an integral part of American foreign policy.

Second, support for local broadcast media is the most effective means for building